

# Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Investing in Hawaii



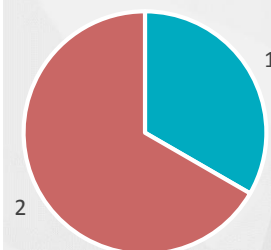
## Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partner-driven, locally-led approach to conservation. It offers new opportunities for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to harness innovation, welcome new partners to the conservation mission, and demonstrates the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

In 2017, NRCS is investing up to \$225 million in 88 projects that impact nearly every state in the nation, including one in Hawaii. Since 2014, NRCS has invested more than \$825 million in 286 high-impact projects, bringing together more than 2,000 conservation partners who have invested an additional \$1.4 billion. By 2018, NRCS and partners will have invested at least \$2.4 billion. These projects are leading to cleaner and more abundant water, better soil and air quality, enhance wildlife habitat, more resilient and productive agricultural lands and stronger rural economies.

### Hawaii Projects to Date

#### Projects by Resource Concern



- Water Quantity/Drought
- Water Quality

3

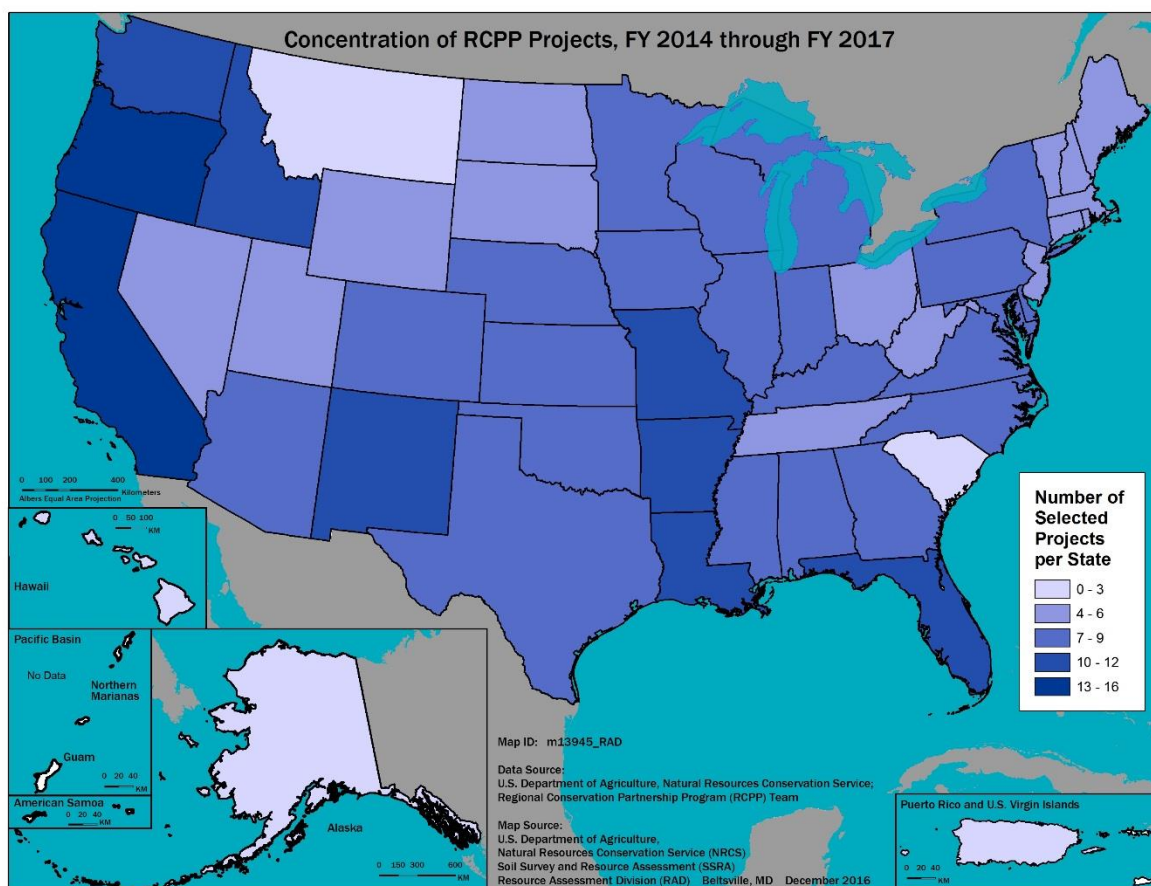
Projects

**\$2.4 million**

NRCS Investment

23

Partners



## Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	Continuing Proposal: Hawaii's Watershed Initiative	State	State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources	6	\$638,000
2014/2015	The Rain Follows the Forest Watershed Initiative	State	State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources	8	\$700,000

## 2017 RCPP Projects

### Hawaii's Watershed Initiative

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$1,063,000 (State)

Lead Partner: State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources

Number of Initial Partners: 9

Participating States: Hawaii (Lead State)

The State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources has an ambitious commitment to double the acreage of protected watershed forests by 2021 and has already protected over 37,000 new acres in less than four years. The Watershed initiative project sites contain the most intact native forest and receive the highest rainfall, which is critical for recharging Hawaii's fresh water supplies. Protecting forests also improves water quality and reduces erosion and excess nutrients in streams and coral reefs. The project will focus on controlling invasive species, the main threat to forested watersheds, and building fences to exclude non-native hooved animals.

